

Serial No.: 10/716,563
Docket No.: 102-1011
Amendment dated July 5, 2007
Reply to the Office Action of April 6, 2007

REMARKS

Introduction

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-23, and 26-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-22, and 24-28 are allowed. Claims 5, 15, and 24-25 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-17, 19-23, and 26-28 have been amended. New claims 29-30 have been added. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Publication No. JP 04246670 A to Tamai et al. (hereinafter "Tamai"). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 23 has been amended to recite, among other things, "a stationary cleaning unit."

It is respectfully submitted that Tamai states that "the flicker 9 can be freely contact with and separated from the fur brush by used of an operating means 18 which is actuated." See Abstract of Tamai. Therefore, the flicker 9 moves in relation to Tamai's fur brush, and "flicks" the excess toner from the fur brush. That is, the cleaning unit 9 of Tamai is not stationary, but moveable. In contrast, Applicants' cleaning unit is stationary, and does not require a flicking movement to shake the fur of the toner supplying unit. Accordingly, since the flicker 9 moves in relation to Tamai's fur brush, Tamai does not teach or disclose, among other things, "a stationary cleaning unit to shake the fur of the toner supplying unit to remove the toner from the toner supplying unit," as presently recited in independent claim 23.

Accordingly, since Tamai does not teach or disclose all the elements set forth independent claim 23 as presently recited, independent claim 23 is patentably distinguishable from Tamai, and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are respectfully solicited.

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New Claims

New claims 29 and 30 have been added to include limitations deleted from the amended claims 1 and 2, respectively. Applicants believe that new claims 29 and 30 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.


If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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